

October 9, 2002

FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM FRICTION MATERIALS MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a final regulation to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from all new and existing friction materials manufacturing facilities that are a major source of toxic air emissions.
- These facilities produce friction materials for use in brake and clutch assemblies. Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects in humans.
- Today's final regulation focuses on reducing air toxics emitted by solvent mixers used in some friction materials manufacturing processes. The final regulation also will reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC).
- Facilities will be able to comply with the requirements of the final regulation by using a solvent recovery system that will allow them to capture and reclaim the solvent used in the process, by substituting a non-toxic material for the solvent, or by using a combination of solvent recovery and solvent substitution.

BENEFITS AND COST

- Today's final regulation will reduce toxic air emissions from friction materials manufacturing facilities by about 290 tons per year over 1997 levels.
- The air toxics emitted include three compounds: n-hexane, toluene, and trichloroethylene. Exposure to these substances has been demonstrated to cause adverse health effects such as irritation of the lungs, skin, and mucus membranes, and effects on the central nervous system, liver, and kidney.
- Emissions of VOC would also be reduced by 290 tons per year over 1997 levels. VOC contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog), which can aggravate asthma and other respiratory conditions and damage crops and other plants.
- EPA estimates the nationwide total capital cost of compliance with this requirement at \$947,000. These costs include adding solvent recovery systems, and purchasing monitoring systems and equipment for reporting and recordkeeping.
- EPA estimates that this final regulation will not impact the price of friction materials. In addition, the Agency does not expect any existing friction materials manufacturing

facilities to close as a result of this final regulation.

WHAT THE FINAL REGULATION REQUIRES

- All new or existing solvent mixers that emit air toxics at friction materials manufacturing facilities will be subject to the final regulation.
- Owners or operators of new and existing large (greater than 2000 pounds mixing capacity) solvent mixers will be required to limit toxic air emissions to 30 percent or less of that which would otherwise be emitted in the absence of solvent recovery and/or solvent substitution averaged over 7 days. Owners or operators of new and existing small solvent mixers will be required to limit toxic air emissions to 15 percent or less of that which would otherwise be emitted in the absence of solvent recovery and/or solvent substitution over the same time period.
- EPA anticipates that only four facilities will be subject to the final regulation, and that only two facilities will need to install solvent recovery systems and/or implement solvent substitution to meet the requirements of the final regulation.
- Owners or operators of solvent mixers using a solvent recovery system, will be required to determine initial and continuous compliance by weighing the solvent added to the mixer, and the solvent recovered by the solvent recovery system for each batch of material mixed. Owners or operators of solvent mixers using solvent substitution, will be required to determine initial and continuous compliance by recording the use of a non-air toxic material for each mix batch.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to identify industrial or “source” categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. For categories of “major” sources (those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- EPA’s published list of industry groups to be regulated (known as source categories) includes friction materials manufacturing facilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final regulation, go to EPA’s World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- For further information about this final regulation, contact Mr. Kevin Cavender of EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2364 or

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